

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 5, 2003. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9-21, and 25 stand rejected. Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 22-24 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Applicants have cancelled Claim 8 without prejudice, amended herein Claims 2-4, 9, and 14-21, submitted new Claims 26-32, and respectfully request consideration of the above-referenced application.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 14 is objected to because of the informality that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the term “the rear surface.” Applicants have amended Claim 14 herein in order to overcome this objection and kindly request the Examiner to reconsider it.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 13-19, 20, 21, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano et al. (US Patent No. 6,594,143, hereinafter “Yano”). In addition, Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano in view of Uchiyama (US Patent No. 6,128,183, hereinafter “Uchiyama”).

In view of the conditional indication of allowable subject matter in the original dependent Claims 2 and 8, presently amended Claim 2 and newly submitted Claim 26 (original Claim 8, now cancelled) are both in independent form, including all of the limitations from original Claim 1, from which they depended. In addition, presently amended Claims 3-7 and 9-25 now depend directly or indirectly from the presently amended independent Claims 2 or the newly submitted Claim 26. Therefore, in view of these amendments and the conditional

identification of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that only the obviousness rejection of Claim 1 based on Yano presently stands.

Applicants respectfully submit that Yano, and Uchiyama, individually or any combination thereof, do not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the invention recited in independent Claim 1. This is so at least because, even when combined, these prior art references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations recited therein. Claim 1 recites a display device comprising a display portion of planar type, electronic parts for driving the display located inside of the display portion, mechanical parts for fixing the electronic parts comprising at least a thin metallic frame, and nuts mounted through the thin metallic frame by being caulked or by being directly threaded.

As described in the specification, the threaded nut inserts of the present invention eliminate the expensive and time-consuming prior art need to provide threaded openings in the resin case or metallic frame, thus increasing the number of screw threads available to affix a liquid crystal display to its casing in a stable manner even in cases employing a thin metal frame (Specification, page 7, lines 6-11). Therefore, the present invention also provides improved design freedom since a plurality of smaller circuit substrates might be disposed into the newly created small space (*Id.*, page 9, lines 22-24). In addition, the instant invention also comprises a mounting arrangement that enables one to affix the display device without the necessity of a resin frame (*Id.*, page 12, lines 14-19).

Yano does not teach or disclose the use of nuts threaded through a thin metallic frame by being caulked or by being directly threaded thereto to hold a liquid crystal display. Yano relates to a liquid crystal module 1 comprising a front frame 5, a liquid crystal display panel 6, a back-light unit 7, and a back frame 8 (Yano, column 8, lines 22-45). In order to affix the liquid crystal module 1 to the bottom frame 2, it is necessary to move one of its side edge into

an H-type groove in the bottom frame 2, before driving screws 3 through the bosses 2a of the bottom frame 2 into the threaded screw holes 1b located in the back frame 8.

Moreover, the threaded nut insert of the present invention would not be obvious in light of the teachings of Yano. Although Yano teaches of thin metallic frames, the front frame 5 in Yano could be considered a thin metallic frame, that prior art reference teaches against any attachment of the liquid crystal module 1 thereto by use of any threaded element (see, for example, Yano col. 1, line 12 - col. 3, line 9; see also, Yano, FIG. 3). Besides the metallic frame, the liquid crystal panel, the back lighting unit, and the resin frame of the present invention—the corresponding elements in Yano would be a front frame 5, a liquid crystal panel 6, a back light unit 7, and a bottom frame 2, respectively—Yano further requires the back frame 8 for proper mounting procedures. The present invention accomplishes the task of properly mounting the liquid crystal display without requiring a back frame, i.e., an element has been emitted, but its function retained. The Examiner is kindly reminded that “the omission of an element and retention of its function is an indicia of unobviousness.” MPEP 2144.04 (II)(B), citing *In re Edge*, 359 F.2d 896, 149 USPQ 556 (CCPA 1966). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, and the newly submitted claims dependent directly or indirectly thereon, i.e., Claims 27-32, patentably distinguish over Yano.

As to the combination of Yano and Uchiyama, Applicants respectfully submit that Uchiyama does not remedy the defects above-noted with respect to Yano. Uchiyama was cited for disclosing a tapered pin which is used as a connector for a display device to enable easy engagement in a rigid attachment to enable appropriate feeding, make more space or produce less interference. Thus, neither Yano nor Uchiyama discloses or suggests nuts threaded through a thin metallic frame by being caulked or by being directly threaded thereto to hold a liquid crystal display. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 27-32

patentably distinguish over Yano and Uchiyama. Applicants kindly request the Examiner to allow Claims 1 and 27-32.

Allowable Subject Matter and Newly Submitted Claims

Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, and 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of the allowable subject matter in these claims is noted with appreciation.

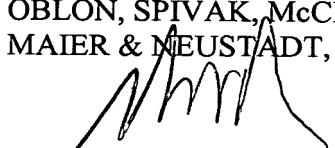
As previously noted, presently amended Claim 2 and newly submitted Claim 26 (original Claim 8) are both in independent form, including all of the limitations from original Claim 1, from which they initially depended. In addition, presently amended Claims 3-7 and 9-25 now depend directly or indirectly from the presently amended independent Claims 2 or the newly submitted Claim 26. In view of the amendments submitted herein and the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter, Applicants kindly request that Claims 2-25 and new claim 26 be passed to issuance.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced pending application is condition for immediate allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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